

GLOSSARY

ABSTINENCE

Refraining from sexual intercourse.

ACQUIRED IMMUNODEFICIENCY SYNDROME (AIDS)

An infectious, transmittable disease that damages the immune system in varying and progressive degrees. People with AIDS are vulnerable to a number of serious, often fatal, secondary or opportunistic infections and cancers. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention considers AIDS to be the most severe manifestation of infection of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). Persons living with AIDS often have infections of the lungs, brain, eyes, and other organs, and frequently suffer debilitating weight loss, diarrhea, and a type of cancer called Kaposi's Sarcoma.

ADOLESCENCE

The transition between puberty and adulthood.

ADOLESCENTS

Youth, ages 10 to 19.

ANTIBODY

A protein (immunoglobulin) secreted and produced by B lymphocytes when it finds an antigen. When you test positive for HIV, they are actually testing for antibodies.

ANTIGEN

A substance that is recognized as foreign by the immune system. Antigens are either whole microorganisms, or they can be a portion of an organism or virus.

ANTIRETROVIRAL TREATMENT

A substance or combination of substances used to destroy a retrovirus (for example, HIV) or suppress its replication.

ACUTE HIV INFECTION:

The 4- to 7-week period of rapid viral replication immediately following exposure. An estimated 30 to 60 percent of individuals with primary HIV infection develop an acute syndrome characterized by fever, malaise, swollen glands, sore throat, headache, muscle aches, and sometimes rash. It was previously thought that HIV was relatively dormant during this phase. However, it is now known that during the time of primary infection, high levels of HIV can be documented.

AFFECTED COMMUNITY

Persons living with HIV and AIDS, and other related individuals including their families, friends, and advocates whose lives are directly influenced by HIV infection and its physical, psychological, and sociological effects.

AGENCY FOR HEALTH CARE POLICY AND RESEARCH (AHCPR)

An agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services supporting activities to enhance health care services and improve access to them. **Internet address:** <http://www.ahcpr.gov>

AGENT

A factor, such as a microorganism, chemical substance, or form of radiation, whose presence, excessive presence, or (in deficiency diseases) relative absence is essential for the occurrence of a disease.

AIDS

See Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome.

AIDS CLINICAL TRIALS INFORMATION SERVICE (ACTIS)

Provides quick and easy access to information on federally and privately funded clinical trials that evaluate experimental drugs and other therapies for adults and children at all stages of HIV infection. ACTIS is sponsored by the Food and Drug Administration, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the National Library of Medicine. **Internet address:** <http://www.actis.org/>

AIDS DEMENTIA COMPLEX (ADC)

A condition in which a person with AIDS may experience loss of coordination, mood swings, loss of inhibitions, and widespread cognitive dysfunctions. It is the most common central nervous system complication of HIV infection. Usually it occurs after the patient develops major opportunistic infections or AIDS-related cancers. The cause of ADC has not been determined exactly, but it may result from HIV infection of cells or inflammatory reactions to such infections.

AIDSDRUGS

An online database service of the National Library of Medicine, with information about drugs undergoing testing against AIDS, AIDS-related complex, and related opportunistic diseases. **Internet address:** <http://igm.nlm.nih.gov/>

AIDS DRUGS ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS (ADAP)

State-based programs funded in part by Title II of the Ryan White CARE Act that provide treatment for HIV disease or that prevent the serious deterioration of health, including treatment of opportunistic infections. ADAP eligibility criteria are determined state-by-state with a focus on serving low-income individuals.

AIDS EDUCATION AND TRAINING CENTERS (AETC)

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA, see) supports the National AIDS Education and Training Centers (AETCs) Program. This is a network of 15 regional centers that conduct targeted, multidisciplinary HIV education and training programs for health care providers. The mission of these centers is to increase the

number of health care providers who are effectively educated and motivated to counsel, diagnose, treat, and manage individuals with HIV infection and to assist in the prevention of high risk behaviors which may lead to infection. **Internet address:** <http://www.seatec.emory.edu/>.

AIDSLINE

An online database service of the National Library of Medicine, with citations and abstracts covering the published scientific and medical literature on AIDS and related topics. **Internet address:** <http://igm.nlm.nih.gov/>.

AIDS-RELATED CANCERS

Several cancers are more common or more aggressive in persons living with HIV, such as certain types of immune system cancers known as lymphomas, Kaposi's Sarcoma, and anogenital cancers that primarily affect the anus and the cervix. HIV appears to play a role in the development of these cancers.

AIDS WASTING SYNDROME

Involves involuntary weight loss of 10 percent of baseline body weight plus either chronic diarrhea or chronic weakness and documented fever in the absence of a illness or condition other than HIV infection that would explain the findings.

ANTIRETROVIRAL AGENTS

Substances used against retroviruses such as HIV.

ASYMPTOMATIC

Without signs or symptoms of disease or illness (i.e. where the patient does not complain of any symptoms).

AUDIENCE

A target audience includes the people, organizations, communities, or other groups a prevention intervention is intended to affect.

BACTERIAL VAGINITIS

Inflammation of the vagina caused by a bacterial infection.

BACTERIAL VAGINOSIS

A common vaginal condition that includes a fishy-smelling discharge caused by overgrowth of bacteria normally found in the vagina.

BASELINE

A known value or quantity with which an unknown is compared when measured or assessed.

BISEXUAL

An individual who is attracted physically, emotionally and spiritually to persons of either the same-gender or opposite-gender.

BODY FLUIDS

Any fluid in the human body, such as blood, urine, saliva (spit), sputum, tears, semen, mother's milk, or vaginal secretions. Only blood, semen, mother's milk, and vaginal secretions have been linked directly to the transmission of HIV.

BREAKTHROUGH INFECTION

An infection, caused by the infectious agent the vaccine is designed to protect against, that occurs during the course of a vaccine trial.

CANDIDIASIS

Common infection of the skin or mucous membranes caused by a yeast-like fungus that commonly causes vaginitis (vaginal burning and or itching accompanied by clumpy white discharge).

CAPACITY BUILDING

Building community capacity involves using community resources and strengths to build and sustain collaborative partnerships. This enables communities to build on local support and volunteers to help them meet new and changing social and economic demands and to create sustainable community change.

CASUAL CONTACT

Normal day-to-day contact among people at home, school, or work or in the community. A contagious pathogen such as chicken pox can be transmitted by casual contact. An infectious pathogen such as HIV cannot be transmitted through casual contact.

CASE FATALITY RATE

The number of fatalities (deaths) from a specific disease in a given period per 100 episodes of the disease during the same time period.

CD4 (T4) or CD4+ CELLS

A type of T cell involved in protecting against viral, fungal, and protozoa infections.

CDC NATIONAL AIDS HOTLINE

Provides education, information, and referrals for persons living with HIV, their families and friends, health professionals, and the general public on HIV/AIDS issues, including transmission, prevention, and testing. **The Hotline number is 1-800-342-AIDS.**

CDC NATIONAL PREVENTION INFORMATION NETWORK

The National Prevention Information Network (NPIN) is a national reference, referral and distribution service for information on HIV/AIDS, STDs and TB, sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). All of the NPIN's services are designed to facilitate sharing of information and resources among people working in HIV, STD, and TB prevention, treatment, and support services. NPIN staff serve a diverse network of people who work in international, national, state, and local settings. **Internet address: <http://www.cdcnpin.org/>.**

CELLULAR IMMUNITY

A collection of cell types that provide protection against certain types of antigens.

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (CDC)

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services agency with the mission to promote health and quality of life by preventing and controlling disease, injury, and disability. CDC operates 11 Centers including the National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention. CDC assesses the status and characteristics of the HIV epidemic and conducts epidemiological, laboratory, and surveillance investigations. **Internet address:** <http://www.cdc.gov/>.

CHANCROID:

A highly contagious sexually transmitted disease caused by the *Hemophilus ducreyi* bacterium. It appears as a pimple, chancre, sore, or ulcer on the skin of the genitals. The lesion appears after an incubation period of 3 to 5 days and may help the transmission of HIV.

CHLAMYDIA

A sexually transmitted disease caused by the bacterium chlamydia trachomatis, often causing irregular bleeding and pain during intercourse in women, burning during urination in men, and discharge in both men and women. If left untreated, chlamydia can lead to pelvic inflammatory disease.

CLINICAL TRIAL

A scientific study of a drug (or vaccine) administered to human subjects to determine its safety and effects. The U.S. government, through the FDA, requires strict testing of all new drugs and vaccines prior to their approval for use.

COFACTORS

A situation or activity that may increase a person's susceptibility to AIDS. Examples of cofactors are: other infections, drug and alcohol use, poor nutrition, genetic factors, and stress. In HIV immunology, the concept of cofactors is being expanded and new cofactors have been identified.

COLLABORATION

Activities designed to build capacity at the organizational and community levels and integrate services across agencies. Coalition building, community partnerships, and citizen participation are included in this strategy.

COMBINATION THERAPY

Two or more drugs or treatments used together to achieve optimum results against HIV infection and/or AIDS.

COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION (CBO)

A service organization that provides social services at the local level.

COMMUNITY LEVEL INTERVENTION (CLI)

Community Level Interventions seek to improve the risk conditions and behaviors in a community through a focus on the community as a whole rather than by intervening with individuals or through small groups. This is often done by attempting to alter social norms, policies or characteristics of the environment. Examples of CLIs include community mobilizations, social marketing campaigns, community-wide events, policy interventions and structural interventions.

COMMUNITY PLANNING

Together in partnership, representatives of affected populations, epidemiologists, behavioral scientists, HIV/AIDS prevention service providers, health department staff, and others analyze the course of the epidemic in their jurisdiction, determine their priority intervention needs, and identify interventions to meet those needs. Community planning groups are responsible for developing comprehensive HIV prevention plans that are directly responsive to the epidemics in their jurisdictions. The goal of HIV Prevention Community Planning is to improve the effectiveness of HIV prevention programs. CDC supports implementation of an effective planning process.

CONTAGIOUS

In the context of HIV, has come to be more popularly known as any infectious disease capable of being transmitted by casual contact from person to another. An infectious pathogen, on the other hand, is transmitted by direct or intimate contact (e.g., sex). **HIV is infectious, not contagious.**

CONTRAINDICATION

A specific circumstance when the use of certain treatments could be harmful.

CRYPTOCOCCAL MENINGITIS

A life-threatening infection of the membranes (meninges) that line the brain and the spinal cord. Cryptococcal disease is caused by a fungus (*Cryptococcus neoformans*). Most people have been exposed to this organism, which is found in soil contaminated by bird droppings, but it usually does not cause disease in healthy people.

CT SCAN (Computed Tomography Scan)

X-ray in which a three-dimensional image of a body structure is constructed by computer from a series of cross-sectional images made along an axis. Also referred to as CAT scan.

CYTOMEGALOVIRUS (CMV):

A herpes virus that is a common cause of opportunistic diseases in persons with AIDS and other persons with immune suppression. While CMV can infect most organs of the body, persons with AIDS are most susceptible to CMV retinitis (disease of the eye) and colitis (disease of the colon).

CYTOMEGALOVIRUS (CMV) RETINITIS

Most adults in the U.S. have been infected by cytomegalovirus, although the virus usually does not cause disease in healthy people. Because the virus remains in the body for life, it can cause disease if the immune system becomes severely damaged by disease or suppressed by drugs. CMV retinitis is an eye disease common among persons who are living with HIV. Without treatment, persons with CMV retinitis can lose their vision. CMV infection can affect both eyes and is the most common cause of blindness among persons with AIDS.

DEMENTIA

Loss of mental capacity with organic origins that affects a person's ability to function in a social or occupational setting.

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

The ``person" characteristics--age, sex, race, and occupation--of descriptive epidemiology used to characterize the populations at risk.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (DHHS)

The U.S. government's principal agency for protecting the health of all Americans and providing essential human services, especially for those who are least able to help themselves. DHHS includes more than 300 programs, covering a wide spectrum of activities. The Department's programs are administered by 11 operating divisions such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Food and Drug Administration and the National Institutes of Health (see the entries for these agencies). DHHS works closely with state and local governments, and many DHHS-funded services are provided at the local level by state or county agencies, or through private-sector grantees. **Internet address:** <http://www.hhs.gov/>.

DISCORDANT COUPLE

A couple in which one partner is HIV positive and the other is HIV negative.

DISTANCE EDUCATION

Training approaches that deliver instruction to learners outside of the classroom via print materials, audiotapes, radio and television broadcasts, computer software, and electronic conferencing.

DOUBLE-BLIND STUDY

A clinical trial design in which neither participants nor staff know who is receiving the experimental drug and which are receiving a placebo or another therapy. Double-blind trials are thought to produce objective results, since the expectations of the doctor and the patient about the experimental drug do not affect the outcome.

DRUG-DRUG INTERACTION

A change of the effect of a drug caused by another drug. The effect may be an increase or a decrease in the action of either drug, or it may be a side effect that is not normally associated with either drug.

DRUG RESISTANCE

The ability of some disease-causing microorganisms, such as bacteria and viruses to adapt themselves, to grow, and to multiply even in the presence of drugs that usually kill them.

EDUCATION/SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Activities designed to affect life and social skills, including decision-making, critical thinking, and judgment

EFFICACY

(Of a drug or treatment). The maximum ability of a drug or treatment to produce a result regardless of dosage.

ELISA

(Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay). A type of test to determine the presence of antibodies to HIV in the blood or oral fluids. Repeatedly reactive (i.e., two or more positive results) tests should be validated with another test such as the Western Blot test.

EMPIRICAL

Based on experimental data, not on a theory.

ENCEPHALITIS

A brain inflammation with symptoms such as headaches, neck pain, fever, nausea, vomiting, and nervous system problems. Several types of opportunistic infections can cause encephalitis.

ENDEMIC

Pertaining to diseases associated with particular locales or population groups.

END-STAGE DISEASE

Final period or phase in the course of a disease leading to a person's death.

EPIDEMIC

A sudden, unusual increase in cases that exceeds the number expected on the basis of experience.

EPIDEMIOLOGIC SURVEILLANCE

The ongoing and systematic collection, analysis, and interpretation of data about a disease or health condition. The CDC collects data as part of a surveillance system to monitor the HIV epidemic in the U.S, in collaboration with state and local health departments, other federal agencies, blood collection agencies, and medical research institutions.

EPIDEMIOLOGY

The branch of medical science that deals with the study of incidence, distribution and control of a disease in a population.

EVALUATION

A process that attempts to determine as systematically and objectively as possible the relevance, effectiveness, and impact of activities in the light of their objectives.

EXPERIMENTAL DRUG

A drug that is not FDA licensed for use in humans, or as a treatment for a particular condition.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION (FDA):

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services agency responsible for ensuring the safety and effectiveness of all drugs, biologics, vaccines, and medical devices, including those used in the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of HIV infection, AIDS, and AIDS-related opportunistic infections. The FDA also works with the blood banking industry to safeguard the nation's blood supply. **Internet address:** <http://www.fda.gov/>.

GAY

Used to describe individuals who are attracted emotionally, spiritually, and physically to people of the same-gender. While the term usually denotes men, the term gays, gay people, or gay community often refers to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender individuals.

GENDER

Culturally defined roles and responsibilities for females and males that are learned, may change over time, and vary among societies.

GENDER ANALYSIS

Systematic study of the differences in the material welfare and status of females and males in a culture.

GENDER EQUITY

The standardization of opportunities (and resulting benefits) between males and females.

GENE THERAPY

Any of a number of experimental treatments in which cell genes are altered. Some gene therapies attempt to provoke new immune activity; some try to render cells resistant to infection; some involve the development of enzymes that destroy viral or cancerous genetic material within cells.

GENITAL ULCER DISEASE

The name for the syndrome where ulcers or sores are found in the genital region, usually caused by herpes, syphilis and/or chancroid. The presence of genital ulcers may increase the risk of transmitting HIV.

GONORRHEA

STD caused by the bacterium *Neisseria gonorrhoea*; common cause of urethral and vaginal discharge, and of discharging eyes in newborns.

GROUP LEVEL INTERVENTIONS (GLI)

Health education and risk-reduction counseling that assists participants in making plans for individual behavior change and ongoing appraisals of their own behavior. involving a range of skills, information, education and support. GLIs do not include “one-shot_ presentations or lectures that lack a skills component.

HALF-LIFE

The time required for half the amount of a drug to be eliminated from the body.

HEALTH

A state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.

HEALTH COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC INFORMATION

The delivery of planned HIV/AIDS prevention messages through one or more channels to target audiences and to build general support for safe behavior, support personal risk-reduction efforts, and/or inform persons at risk for infection how to obtain specific services.

HEALTH CARE FINANCING ADMINISTRATION (HCFA)

The federal agency that administers the Medicare, Medicaid, and Child Health Insurance Programs. **Internet address:** <http://www.hcfa.gov/>.

HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (HRSA)

A U.S. Department of Health and Human Services agency that directs national health programs which improve the health of the Nation by assuring quality health care to underserved, vulnerable, and special-need populations and by promoting appropriate health professions workforce capacity and practice, particularly in primary care and public health. Among other functions, HRSA administers the Ryan White C.A.R.E. Act to provide treatment and services for those affected by HIV/AIDS. HRSA administers programs to demonstrate how communities can organize their health care resources to develop an integrated, comprehensive, culturally competent system to care for those with AIDS and HIV infection. HRSA also administers education and training programs for health care providers and community service workers who care for persons living with HIV or AIDS. **Internet address:** <http://www.hrsa.dhhs.gov/>.

HERPES VIRUSES

A group of viruses that includes herpes simplex type 1 (HSV-1), herpes simplex type 2 (HSV-2), cytomegalovirus (CMV), Epstein-Barr virus (EBV), varicella zoster virus (VZV), human herpes virus type 6 (HHV-6), and HHV-8, a herpes virus associated with Kaposi's Sarcoma.

HERPES

An STD caused by herpes simplex virus (HSV), a common cause of genital blisters and ulcers.

HEPATITIS

An inflammation of the liver. May be caused by bacterial or viral infection, parasitic infestation, alcohol, drugs, toxins, or transfusion of incompatible blood. Although many cases of hepatitis are not a serious threat to health, the disease can become chronic and can sometimes lead to liver failure and death. There are four major types of viral hepatitis: (1) hepatitis A, caused by infection with the hepatitis A virus, which is spread by fecal-oral contact; (2) hepatitis B, caused by infection with the hepatitis B virus (HBV), which is most commonly passed on to a partner during intercourse, especially during anal sex, as well as through sharing of drug needles; (3) non-A, non-B hepatitis, caused by the hepatitis C virus, which appears to be spread through sexual contact as well as through sharing of drug needles (another type of non-A, non-B hepatitis is caused by the hepatitis E virus, principally spread through contaminated water); (4) delta hepatitis, which occurs only in persons who are already infected with HBV and is caused by the HDV virus; most cases of delta hepatitis occur among people who are frequently exposed to blood and blood products such as persons with hemophilia.

HETEROSEXUAL

A person who is attracted physically, emotionally and spiritually to persons of the opposite-gender.

HETEROSEXISM

The societal assumption that everyone is heterosexual, and that heterosexuality is somehow superior to homosexuality. Heterosexism is a broader term than homophobia in that it need not imply the fear and loathing the latter term suggests. It can describe seemingly benign statements, such as "She'd drive any man wild" or "He's every woman's dream husband," based on the assumption that heterosexuality is the norm.

HIGHLY ACTIVE ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY (HAART)

A combination of three or more different drugs that have been shown to reduce the amount of virus so that it becomes undetectable in a patient's blood. For information about the U.S. Public Health Service recommendations for the treatment of HIV infections in adults, adolescents, children, and pregnant women, call the HIV/AIDS Treatment Information Service at 1-800-448-0440. **Internet address:** <http://www.hivatis.org/>.

HISTOPLASMOSIS

A fungal infection, commonly of the lungs, caused by the fungus *Histoplasma capsulatum*. This fungus is commonly found in bird and/or bat droppings in the Ohio and Mississippi Valley region, the Caribbean Islands, and in Central and South America. Nationwide, about 5 percent of persons with AIDS have histoplasmosis, but in geographic areas where the fungus is common, persons with AIDS are at high risk for disseminated histoplasmosis.

HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus)

An AIDS-causing virus that attacks the body's immune system, making the body unable to fight infection. HIV has been found in blood, semen, saliva, tears, nervous system tissue, breast milk, and female genital tract secretions; but, only blood, semen, female genital secretions, and breast milk have been proven to transmit HIV to others. Transmission of the virus occurs through sexual contact including oral, vaginal, and anal sex; via blood through transfusions or needle sharing; and from a pregnant woman to the fetus or a nursing mother to her baby. Other transmission methods are rare and include accidental needle injury, artificial insemination through donated semen, and kidney transplantation.

HIV TYPE 1 (HIV-1)

The retrovirus isolated and recognized as the cause of AIDS..

HIV TYPE 2 (HIV-2)

A virus closely related to HIV -1 that has also been found to cause AIDS. It was first isolated in West Africa.

HIV DISEASE

Destruction of the immune system characterized by a gradual deterioration crucial cells, called CD4+ T cells, are disabled and killed, and their numbers progressively decline.

HOLISTIC MEDICINE

Healing traditions that promote the protection and restoration of health through the body's natural ability to heal itself.

HPV (HUMAN PAPILLOMA VIRUS)

A sexually transmitted agent that infects the cells of the cervix and slowly causes cellular changes that can result in cancer.

HOMOPHOBIA

Coined by psychologist George Weinberg in his 1972 book, *Society and the Healthy Homosexual*, homophobia refers to an unrealistic or irrational fear or hatred of homosexuality. Homophobia is perpetuated by the negative stereotypes and misconceptions that surround the subject of homosexuality. Homophobia can lead to hatred, discrimination, and violence against homosexuals and bisexuals.

HOMOSEXUAL

A person that is attracted physically, emotionally and spiritually to persons of the same gender.

HUMAN PAPILLOMA VIRUS (HPV):

The virus that causes genital warts and is linked to cervical dysplasia and cervical cancer. HPV affects more than 24 million Americans, and CDC estimates that there are at least 500,000 new cases each year. There is no specific cure for an HPV infection, but the warts can be removed by freezing, laser treatment, or surgery can remove the

warts. The virus can be transmitted through sexual contact. HPV is a frequently seen infection in women with HIV/AIDS.

HYDROXYUREA

An inexpensive prescription drug used for the treatment of sickle-cell anemia and some forms of leukemia. Recent treatment studies have shown that hydroxyurea can boost the antiretro-viral effects anti-HIV drugs.

HYPERTHERMIA

An unproven and dangerous experimental procedure that involves temporarily heating a patient's body core to temperatures of up to 108° F on the theory that this temperature kills free HIV and HIV-containing cells.

HYPOTHESIS

A specific statement or proposition that can be tested to predict a particular relationship among several different variables.

IDIOPATHIC

Without a known cause.

IMMUNE DEFICIENCY

A breakdown or inability of certain parts of the immune system to function, thus making a person susceptible to certain diseases that they would not ordinarily develop.

IMMUNE RESPONSE

The activity of the immune system against foreign substances.

IMMUNE SYSTEM

The body's complicated natural defense against foreign agents (e.g., microbes, viruses). There are two aspects of the immune system's response to disease: inborn and acquired.

IMMUNITY

A natural or acquired resistance to a specific disease. Immunity may be partial or complete, long lasting or temporary.

IMMUNIZATION

To protect against an infectious disease by vaccination, usually with a weakened (or killed form of the disease-causing microorganism.

IMMUNOCOMPETENT

Possessing a normal immune system.

IMMUNOCOMPROMISED

An immune system in which the ability to resist or fight off infections and tumors is less than normal.

IMMUNODEFICIENCY

Breakdown in immunity when certain parts of the immune system no longer function. This condition makes a person more susceptible to certain diseases.

IMMUNOSUPPRESSION

A state of the body in which the immune system is damaged and does not perform its normal functions. Immunosuppression may be induced by drugs (e.g., in chemotherapy) or result from certain disease processes, such as HIV infection.

INCIDENCE

The number of new cases (e.g., of a disease) occurring in a given population over a certain period of time.

INCLUSION/EXCLUSION CRITERIA

The medical or social standards determining whether a person may or may not be allowed to enter a clinical trial. For example, some trials may not allow persons with chronic liver disease or with certain drug allergies; others may exclude men or women, or only include persons with a lowered T cell count.

INCUBATION PERIOD

The time interval between the initial infection with a pathogen (e.g., HIV) and the appearance of the first symptom or sign of disease.

INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE (IHS)

An agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services responsible for providing federal health services to American Indians and Alaska Natives. The IHS currently provides health services to approximately 1.5 million American Indians and Alaska Natives who belong to more than 557 federally recognized tribes in 34 states.

Internet address: <http://www.ihs.gov/>.

INFECTION

The state or condition in which the body (or part of the body) is invaded by an infectious agent (e.g., a bacterium, fungus, or virus), which multiplies and produces an injurious effect (active infection). As related to HIV: Infection typically begins when HIV encounters a CD4+ cell. The HIV surface protein gp120 binds tightly to the CD4 molecule on the cell's surface. The membranes of the virus and the cell fuse, a process governed by gp41, another surface protein. The viral core, containing HIV's RNA, proteins, and enzymes, is released into the cell.

INFECTIOUS

An infection capable of being transmitted by direct or intimate contact (e.g., sex).

INFORMED CONSENT

The permission granted by a participant in a research study (including medical research) after he/she has received comprehensive information about the study. This is a statement of trust between the institution performing the research procedure and the person (e.g., a patient) on whom the research procedures are to be performed. This

includes, for example, the type of protection available to people considering entering a drug trial. Before entering the trial, participants must sign a consent form that contains an explanation of: (a) why the research is being done, (b) what the researchers want to accomplish, (c) what will be done during the trial and for how long, (d) what the risks associated with the trial are, (e) what benefits can be expected from the trial, (f) what other treatments are available, and (g) the participant's right to leave the trial at any time. Informed consent also pertains to situations where certain tests need to be performed.

INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD (IRB)

A committee of physicians, statisticians, researchers, community advocates, and others that ensures that a clinical trial is ethical and that the rights of study participants are protected.

INTERFERON

One of a number of antiviral proteins that modulate the immune response.

JAUNDICE

Yellow pigmentation of the skin and whites of the eyes caused by elevated blood levels of bilirubin. The condition is associated with either liver or gallbladder disease or excessive destruction of red blood cells.

KAPOSI'S SARCOMA (KS)

An AIDS-defining illness consisting of individual cancerous lesions caused by an overgrowth of blood vessels. KS typically appears as pink or purple painless spots or nodules on the surface of the skin or oral cavity. KS also can occur internally, especially in the intestines, lymph nodes, and lungs, and in this case is life threatening. The cancer may spread and also attack the eyes.

KILLER T CELLS

Because viruses lurk inside host (e.g., human) cells where antibodies cannot reach them, the only way they can be eliminated is by killing the infected host cell. To do this, the immune system uses a kind of white blood cell, called killer T cells. These cells act only when they encounter another cell that carries a "marker" (i.e., a protein) that links it to a foreign protein -- that of the invading virus.

LATENCY

The period when HIV is in the body but is not producing any clinically noticeable ill effects or symptoms. In HIV disease, clinical latency is an asymptomatic period in the early years of HIV infection. The period of latency is characterized in the peripheral blood by near normal CD4 counts. Recent research indicates that HIV remains quite active in the lymph nodes during this period.

LESBIAN

A woman who is attracted emotionally, spiritually, and physically to other women.

LESION

A general term to describe an area of altered tissue, such as the infected patch or sore in a skin disease.

LIFE SKILLS

Adaptive and positive behaviors that allow individuals to deal with the demands and challenges of everyday life. Also refers to skills that enhance psychological and social development such as decision-making and problem solving, creative and critical thinking, communication and interpersonal relations, self-awareness, and coping with emotions and causes of stress. Development and exploration of life skills is a particularly important facet of adolescent reproductive health.

LONG-TERM NONPROGRESSORS

Individuals who have been living with HIV for at least 7 to 12 years (different authors use different time spans) and have stable CD4+ T cell counts of 600 or more cells per cubic millimeter of blood, no HIV-related diseases, and no previous antiretroviral therapy. Data suggest that this phenomenon is associated with the maintenance of the integrity of the lymphoid tissues and with less virus trapping in the lymph nodes than is seen in other individuals living with HIV.

LYMPH NODES

Small, bean-sized organs of the immune system, distributed widely throughout the body. Lymph fluid is filtered through the lymph nodes in which all types of lymphocytes take up temporary residence. Antigens that enter the body find their way into lymph or blood and are filtered out by the lymph nodes or spleen, respectively, for attack by the immune system.

LYMPHADENOPATHY SYNDROME (LAS)

Swollen, firm, and possibly tender lymph nodes. The cause may range from an infection such as HIV, the flu, or mononucleosis to lymphoma (cancer of the lymph nodes).

LYMPHOMA

Cancer of the lymphoid tissues. The types of lymphomas most commonly associated with HIV infection are called non-Hodgkin's lymphomas or B cell lymphomas. In these types of cancers, certain cells of the lymphatic system grow abnormally. They divide rapidly, growing into tumors.

MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING (MRI)

Computer-generated images of the body's internal tissues and organs.

MALABSORPTION SYNDROME

Decreased intestinal absorption resulting in loss of appetite, muscle pain, and weight loss.

MALAISE

A generalized, nonspecific feeling of discomfort.

MEDICAL BARRIERS

Practices and policies based on a medical rationale that impede or deny medical services, but which cannot be scientifically justified.

MARGINALIZED

People whose needs have been overlooked or neglected, usually because some aspect(s) of their lives causes mainstream society to perceive them as unacceptable or difficult to manage.

MEDICAL SURVEILLANCE

The monitoring of potentially exposed individuals to detect early symptoms of disease.

MENINGITIS

An inflammation of the meninges (membranes surrounding the brain or spinal cord), which may be caused by a bacterium, fungus, or virus.

METASTASIS

Transfer of a disease-producing agent (e.g., cancer cells or bacteria) from an original site of disease to another part of the body, with development of a similar lesion in the new location (e.g., spread of cancer from an original site to other sites in the body).

MICROBICIDE

Agent that destroys microbes (such as an antiseptic) or antibiotic.

An agent (e.g., a chemical or antibiotic) that destroys microbes. New research is being carried out to evaluate the use of rectal and vaginal microbicides to inhibit the transmission of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV.

MOLLUSCUM CONTAGIOSUM

A disease of the skin and mucous membranes caused by a poxvirus (molluscum contagiosum virus, MCV) infection. It is characterized by small dome-shaped bumps on the face, upper trunk, or extremities. The disease most frequently occurs in children and adults with impaired immune response. It is transmitted from person to person by direct contact. In persons living with HIV, molluscum contagiosum is often a progressive disease, resistant to treatment.

MONOCLONAL ANTIBODIES:

Antibodies produced in the laboratory by a hybridoma or antibody-producing cell source for a specific antigen.

MORBIDITY

The condition of being diseased or sick; also the incidence of disease or rate of sickness.

MORTALITY RATE

A measure of the frequency of occurrence of death in a defined population during a specified interval of time.

MULTIPLE DRUG RESISTANT TUBERCULOSIS (MDR-TB)

A strain of TB (tuberculosis) that does not respond to two or more standard anti-TB drugs. MDR-TB usually occurs when treatment is interrupted, thus allowing organisms, in which mutations for drug resistance have occurred, to multiply.

MUTATION

As related to HIV: During the course of HIV disease, HIV strains may emerge in an infected individual that differ widely in their ability to infect and kill different cell types, as well as in their rate of replication. Of course, HIV does **not** mutate into another type of virus.

MYCOBACTERIUM

Any bacterium of the genus *Mycobacterium* or a closely related genus.

MYCOBACTERIUM AVIUM COMPLEX (MAC)

A common opportunistic infection that can be limited to a specific organ or area of the body or spread throughout the body. It is a life-threatening disease, although new therapies offer promise for both prevention and treatment. MAC disease is extremely rare in persons who are not infected with HIV.

NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE (NCI)

An institute of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) with the overall mission of conducting and supporting research, training, and disseminating health information with respect to the causes, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer. NCI also performs these functions for HIV-related cancers. **Internet address:** <http://www.nci.nih.gov/>.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ALLERGY AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES (NIAID)

An NIH institute that conducts and supports research to study the causes of allergic, immunologic, and infectious diseases, and to develop better means of preventing, diagnosing, and treating illnesses. NIAID is responsible for the federally funded, national basic research program in AIDS. It supports basic research, epidemiology, and natural history studies; blood screening tests; drug discovery and development; vaccine development and testing; and treatment studies, some directly and some through contracts and cooperative agreements with other institutions. It administers the Adult AIDS Clinical Trials Group (AACTG) and the Pediatric AIDS Clinical Trials Group, network of testing units at hospitals around the country. NIAID also administers the Community Programs for Clinical Research on AIDS (CPCRA) a community-based network of AIDS treatment research centers. **Internet address:** <http://www.niaid.nih.gov/>.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF CHILD HEALTH AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT (NICHD)

An NIH institute that conducts and supports research on the reproductive, developmental, and behavioral processes that determine the health of children, adults, families, and populations. Thus, NICHD supports clinical research related to the

transmission of HIV from infected mothers to their offspring, the progression of disease in HIV-infected infants and children, and the testing of potential therapies and preventatives for this population. **Internet address:** <http://www.nih.gov/nichd/>.

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH (NIH)

A multi-institute agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, NIH is the federal focal point for health research. It conducts research in its own laboratories and supports research in universities, medical schools, hospitals, and research institutions throughout this country and abroad. **Internet address:** <http://www.nih.gov/>.

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE (NLM)

An NIH institute, NLM is one of three U.S. national libraries. It is the world's largest research library in a single scientific and professional field (i.e., medicine). In the HIV/AIDS area, NLM provides electronic and print information services including the online services AIDSLINE, AIDSTRIALS, and AIDSDRUGS. (See entries for these services). **Internet address:** <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/>.

NEUROPATHY

The name given to a group of disorders involving nerves. Symptoms range from a tingling sensation or numbness in the toes and fingers to paralysis. It is estimated that 35 percent of persons with HIV disease have some form of neuropathy.

NIGHT SWEATS

Extreme sweating during sleep. Although they can occur with other conditions, night sweats are also a symptom of HIV disease.

NON-GONOCOCCAL URETHRITIS (NGU):

Discharge, painful urination, or itching at the end of the urethra, in response to the inflammation NOT due to gonococcal infection.

NON-NUCLEOSIDE REVERSE TRANSCRIPTASE INHIBITORS (NNRTI)

Anti-HIV drugs of a particular type, most often used in combination with other drugs. FDA has approved the NNRTIs nevirapine, delavirdine, and efavirenz for use against HIV.

NUCLEOSIDE REVERSE TRANSCRIPTASE INHIBITOR (NRTI)

The class of anti-HIV NRTIs that includes such drugs as AZT, ddI, ddC, d4T, 3TC, and abacavir.

OFFICE OF AIDS RESEARCH (OAR)

An office within the National Institutes of Health (NIH) that coordinates AIDS research in all of the participating NIH institutes.

Internet address: <http://www.nih.gov/od/oar/index.htm>.

OPPORTUNISTIC INFECTIONS

GLOSSARY

Illnesses that affect people with weak immune systems. caused by various organisms, some of which usually do not cause disease in persons with normal immune systems. Persons living with advanced HIV infection suffer opportunistic infections of the lungs, brain, eyes, and other organs. Opportunistic infections common in persons diagnosed with AIDS include *Pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia; Kaposi's Sarcoma; cryptosporidiosis; histoplasmosis; other parasitic, viral, and fungal infections; and some types of cancers.

ORAL HAIRY LEUKOPLAKIA (OHL)

A whitish lesion that appears on the side of the tongue and inside cheeks. The lesion appears raised, with a ribbed or "hairy" surface. OHL occurs mainly in persons with declining immunity and may be caused by Epstein-Barr virus infection. OHL was not observed before the HIV epidemic.

OUTCOMES

Outcomes are measurable changes observed on indicators related to specific objectives.

OUTREACH

HIV/AIDS educational interventions generally conducted by peer or paraprofessional educators face-to-face with high-risk individuals in the participants' neighborhoods or other areas where these individuals typically congregate. Outreach usually includes distribution of condoms, bleach, sexual responsibility kits, and educational materials. Includes peer opinion leader models. Outreach programs bring services to underserved, hard-to-reach populations such as street youth, out-of-school youth, injection drug users, etc.

PANDEMIC

A disease prevalent throughout an entire country, continent, or the whole world. See Epidemic. *Pandemic*: An epidemic occurring in many regions and countries.

PARTNER

A term used by many gay, lesbian, bisexual, straight, and transgender people to refer to their spouse or significant other, similar to husband or wife in a opposite-gender (straight) relationship.

PARTNER COUNSELING AND REFERRAL

Contacting, treating, and educating sexual partners of a patient treated for STD.

PATHOGEN

Any disease-producing microorganism or material.

PATHOGENESIS

The origin and development of a disease.

PEER PRESSURE

Emotional or mental force from people belonging to the same social group (such as same age, grade, or status) to act or behave in a manner similar to themselves. Peer pressure has a great influence on adolescent behavior and reflects young people's desire to fit in and be accepted by others.

PEER EDUCATORS

People who have been trained to assist their peers in need of reproductive health information and services. Peer educators receive special training in making decisions, providing client referrals, or providing commodities or services. They usually work one-on-one or in small groups.

PELVIC INFLAMMATORY DISEASE (PID):

Infection in the uterine lining, uterine wall, fallopian tube, ovary, uterine membrane, broad ligaments of the uterus, or membranes lining the pelvic wall. May be caused by a variety of infectious organisms including gonorrhea and chlamydia

PERFORMANCE STANDARD

The minimum number of services delivered to a group during an intervention. Performance standards are used in comparing objectives to achievements in program evaluation.

PERINATAL TRANSMISSION

Transmission of a pathogen, such as HIV, from mother to baby before, during, or after the birth process. Ninety percent of children reported with AIDS acquired HIV infection from their HIV-infected mothers.

PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHY

Condition characterized by sensory loss, pain, muscle weakness, and wasting of muscle in the hands or legs and feet. It may start with burning or tingling sensations or numbness in the toes and fingers. In severe cases, paralysis may result. Peripheral neuropathy may arise from an HIV-related condition or be the side effect of certain drugs.

PNEUMOCYSTIS CARINII PNEUMONIA (PCP)

An infection of the lungs caused by *Pneumocystis carinii*, which is thought to be a protozoa but may be more closely related to a fungus. *P. carinii* grows rapidly in the lungs of persons with AIDS and is a frequent AIDS-related cause of death. Infection sometimes may occur elsewhere in the body (skin, eye, spleen, liver, or heart). The standard treatment for persons with PCP is either a combination of trimethoprim and sulfamethoxazole (TMP/SMX, also called Bactrim or Septra), dapsone, or pentamidine.

POLICY

A set of rules guiding organizational and administrative activities and providing authority for allocation of resources

POLYMERASE CHAIN REACTION (PCR)

As related to HIV - a sensitive laboratory technique that can detect and quantify HIV in a person's blood or lymph nodes. It is an FDA-approved test to measure viral load.

POSTTEST

Soliciting feedback from members of a target audience after delivering a educational or prevention intervention.

PRETEST

Soliciting feedback from members of a target audience prior to finalizing educational or prevention interventions.

PREVALENCE

A measure of the proportion of people in a population affected with a particular disease at a given time.

PREVALENCE RATE

The proportion of persons in a population who have a particular disease or attribute at a specified point in time or over a specified period of time.

PREVENTIVE BEHAVIORS

Behaviors that reduce exposure to health risks and improve life. These can include behaviors such as planning ahead for condom use, seeking information or help about a reproductive health concern, or forming positive relationships among peers who are not engaging in risky behaviors.

PROGRAM

A coordinated set of activities designed to achieve specific objectives over a period of time

PROPHYLACTIC DRUG

A drug that helps to prevent a disease or initial infection. For example, the drug Bactrim is used as a prophylactic treatment for PCP. See also Prophylaxis.

PROPHYLAXIS

Treatment to prevent the onset of a particular disease ("primary" prophylaxis), or the recurrence of symptoms in an existing infection that has been brought under control ("secondary" prophylaxis, maintenance therapy).

PROTEASE INHIBITORS

Antiviral drugs that act by inhibiting the virus protease enzyme, thereby preventing viral replication. Specifically, these drugs block the protease enzyme from breaking apart long strands of viral proteins to make the smaller, active HIV proteins that comprise the virion. If the larger HIV proteins are not broken apart, they cannot assemble themselves into new functional HIV particles. FDA has approved the following protease inhibitors as drugs to treat HIV disease: Saquinavir (Invirase, Fortovase), Indinavir (Crixivan), Nelfinavir (Viracept), Ritonavir (Norvir), and Amprenavir (Agenerase).

PROTECTIVE FACTORS

Protective factors are characteristics that may strengthen resilience and thus guard against HIV infection.

PROTOCOL

The detailed plan for conducting a clinical trial. It states the trial's rationale, purpose, drug or vaccine dosages, length of study, routes of administration, who may participate (see inclusion/exclusion criteria), and other aspects of trial design.

PUBLIC HEALTH MODEL

The public health model represents the interactions among the agent, host, and environment. In HIV prevention, the agent is HIV. Hosts can be seen as the potentially or currently infected. The environment is the social climate that encourages and supports potential infection and/or progression of HIV. The public health model posits that each of these factors must be addressed together for prevention to be effective.

PUBLIC HEALTH SURVEILLANCE

The systematic collection, analysis, interpretation, and dissemination of health data on an ongoing basis, to gain knowledge of the pattern of disease occurrence and potential in a community, in order to control and prevent disease in the community.

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT (QI)

A systematic, team-based, problem-solving process to continually improve the level of care offered.

RANDOM SAMPLE

A sample derived by selecting individuals such that each individual has the same probability of selection.

RANDOMIZED TRIAL

A study in which participants are randomly (i.e., by chance) assigned to one of two or more treatment arms or regimen of a clinical trial. Occasionally placebos are utilized. Randomization minimizes the differences among groups by equally distributing people with particular characteristics among all the trial arms.

REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLE

A sample whose characteristics correspond to those of the original population or reference population.

RESISTANCE

Reduction in HIV's sensitivity to a particular drug.

RETINITIS

Inflammation of the retina of the eye, linked in AIDS to cytomegalovirus infection. Untreated, it can lead to blindness.

RETROVIRUS

A type of virus that, when not infecting a cell, stores its genetic information on a single-stranded RNA molecule instead of the more usual double-stranded DNA. HIV is an example of a retrovirus. After a retrovirus penetrates a cell, it constructs a DNA version of its genes using a special enzyme called reverse transcriptase. This DNA then becomes part of the cell's genetic material.

REVERSE TRANSCRIPTASE

This enzyme of HIV -- and other retroviruses -- converts the single-stranded viral RNA into DNA, the form in which the cell carries its genes. Some antiviral drugs approved by the FDA for the treatment of HIV infection (e.g., AZT, ddC, ddI, 3TC, D4T, and abacavir) work by interfering with this stage of the viral life cycle. They are also referred to as reverse transcriptase inhibitors (RTIs).

RISK ASSESSMENT

A systematic client interview designed to elicit medical, social, and behavioral history to assist in establishing potential for risk of RTIs.

RISK

The probability that an event will occur, e.g. that an individual will become ill or die within a stated period of time or age.

RISK BEHAVIORS

Risk behaviors are individual actions associated with potential HIV infection. However, they are not necessarily the cause of the problem.

RISK FACTOR

An aspect of personal behavior or lifestyle, an environmental exposure, or an inborn or inherited characteristic that is associated with an increased occurrence of disease or other health-related event or condition.

ROLE MODEL

A person who serves as a example of a positive behavior.

RYAN WHITE C.A.R.E. ACT

Through the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (C.A.R.E.) Act, health care and support services are provided for persons living with HIV/AIDS. HRSA administers this Act, which was reauthorized by Congress in 1996 for 5 years. The metropolitan areas most affected by the HIV epidemic are awarded Title I grants to improve and expand health care. Title II grants to states and territories support essential health care and support services for persons living with HIV/AIDS, including health insurance and AIDS Drug Assistance Programs. Title III(b) supports early intervention in clinical settings such as community and migrant health centers, health care for the homeless programs, and Native Hawaiian health programs. Title IV supports services for women, children, adolescents, and families affected by the HIV epidemic. Part F of

the Act supports Special Projects of National Significance (SPNS) and AIDS Education and Training Centers (AETCs).

SENTINEL SURVEILLANCE

A surveillance system in which a pre-arranged sample of reporting sources agrees to report all cases of one or more notifiable conditions.

SEROCONVERSION

The development of antibodies to a particular antigen. When people develop antibodies to HIV, they "seroconvert" from antibody-negative to antibody-positive. It may take from as little as 1 week to several months or more after infection with HIV for antibodies to the virus to develop. After antibodies to HIV appear in the blood, a person should test positive on antibody tests.

SEROPREVALENCE

As related to HIV infection, the proportion of persons who have tested antibody positive for HIV.

SEROSTATUS

Results of a blood test for HIV antibodies.

SERVICE POLICIES

Organizational policies that specify which services are offered, when, where, and by whom, for example, policies that decide which contraceptive methods will be offered, clinic hours, and clinic personnel.

SERVICE STANDARDS

Organizational rules that specify qualifications and acceptable levels of performance for personnel.

SETTING

The setting is the actual location where an intervention takes place.

SEX

Biological differences between males and females.

SEX-ROLE STEREOTYPE

A fixed notion of appropriate behaviors based on gender; for example, men should earn money and women should raise children.

SEXUAL COERCION

Forcing someone to engage in sexual behavior against his/her will, through threatened or actual violence or severe social consequences.

SEXUAL ORIENTATION

The sex to which a person is physically and emotionally attracted. Heterosexual orientation refers to attraction to members of the opposite sex; homosexual orientation refers to attraction to members of one's own sex; and bisexual orientation refers to attraction to both sexes.

SEXUALITY EDUCATION

The process of providing training and knowledge about sexuality; sexuality education encompasses both physical and emotional aspects of sexual and reproductive health.

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE (STD) OR SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTION (STI)

Any infection that is acquired through sexual contact in a substantial number of cases.. In addition to the "traditional" STDs (syphilis and gonorrhea), the spectrum of STDs now includes HIV infection, which causes AIDS; *Chlamydia trachomatis* infections; human papilloma virus (HPV) infection; genital herpes; chancroid; genital mycoplasmas; hepatitis B; trichomoniasis; enteric infections; and ectoparasitic diseases (i.e., diseases caused by organisms that live on the outside of the host's body).

SCIENCE-BASED

Refers to a process in which experts, using commonly agreed upon measures for rating research interventions, come to a consensus that evaluation research findings are credible and can be verified. This process is sometimes referred to as science- or research-based.

SF-2

A strain of HIV used in vaccine development.

SIDE EFFECTS

The actions or effects of a drug (or vaccine) other than those desired. The term usually refers to undesired or negative effects, such as headache, skin irritation, or liver damage. Experimental drugs must be evaluated for both immediate and long-term side effects.

SIMIAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS (SIV)

An HIV-like virus that infects monkeys, chimpanzees, and other non-human primates.

SKILLS BUILDING TRAINING

Training based on participants' ability to demonstrate mastery of clinical skills performed under certain conditions to specific standards.

SOCIAL MARKETING

Use of marketing techniques to improve social well-being by changing attitudes and behavior in regard to a specific product or concept.

STEM CELLS

Cells from which all blood cells derive. Bone marrow is rich in stem cells.

STD (OR STI) MANAGEMENT

The care of a client with an STD; this includes activities such as history-taking, physical examination, laboratory tests, diagnosis, treatment and health education about treatment and prevention, follow-up assessment, and referral, when indicated.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Strategic planning refers to a deliberate set of steps that: assess needs and resources; define a target audience and a set of goals and objectives; plan and design coordinated strategies with evidence of success; logically connect these strategies to needs, assets, and desired outcomes; measure and evaluate the process and outcomes

STRATEGY

Strategies are types of activities (e.g. policy) that can be implemented in order to achieve specific objectives and for which there may or may not exist a strong evidence base.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Misuse of alcohol or drugs.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (SAMHSA)

An agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. SAMHSA's mission within the Nation's health system is to improve the quality and availability of prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation services in order to reduce illness, death, disability, and cost to society resulting from substance abuse and mental illnesses. **Internet address:** <http://www.samhsa.gov/>.

SYMPTOMS:

Health problems that a client experiences or complains of.

SYNDROME

A set of signs and symptoms that tend to occur together and are clinically indicative of a particular disease state, such as AIDS

SYPHILIS

STD caused by the bacterium *Treponema pallidum*; one of the causes of genital ulcers.

T CELLS

T cells are white blood cells, that are the immune system's "border police," responsible for finding infected or cancerous cells..

THRUSH

Sore patches in the mouth caused by the fungus *Candida albicans*. Thrush is one of the most frequent early symptoms or signs of an immune disorder. The fungus commonly lives in the mouth, but only causes problems when the body's resistance is reduced

either by antibiotics that have reduced the number of competitive organisms in the mouth, or by an immune deficiency such as HIV disease.

TOXOPLASMOSIS

Toxoplasmosis is an infection that is caused a parasite carried by cats, birds, and other animals, and is found in soil contaminated by cat feces and in meat, particularly pork. The parasite can infect the lungs, retina of the eye, heart, pancreas, liver, colon, and testes. Once it invades the body, it remains there, but the immune system in a healthy person usually prevents the parasite from causing disease. In HIV-infected persons, the most common site of toxoplasmosis is the brain. When *T. gondii* invades the brain, causing inflammation, the condition is called toxoplasmic encephalitis. While the disease in HIV-infected persons can generally be treated with some success, lifelong therapy is required to prevent its reoccurrence.

TRANSGENDER

A broad term for all individuals whose gender anatomy and identity are incongruent. For example, a person who possesses a female gender anatomy yet experiences their gender identity as male.

TRANSSEXUAL

A medical term coined in the 1950's to refer to individuals who desire to align their gender anatomy with their "core" self (gender identity) through changing their bodies hormonally and/or surgically. Not all transsexuals can have or desire complete genital surgery.

TRANSMISSION

In the context of HIV disease: HIV is spread most commonly by sexual contact with an infected partner. The virus can enter the body through the lining of the vagina, vulva, penis, rectum, or, rarely, the mouth during sex. The likelihood of transmission is increased by factors that may damage these linings, especially other sexually transmitted diseases that cause ulcers or inflammation. HIV also is spread through contact with infected blood, most often by the sharing of drug needles or syringes contaminated with minute quantities of blood containing the virus. Children can contract HIV from their infected mothers during either pregnancy or birth, or postnatally, through breast-feeding. In developed countries, HIV is now only rarely transmitted by transfusion of blood or blood products because of screening measures.

TRANSMISSION OF INFECTION

Any mode or mechanism by which an infectious agent is spread through the environment or to another person.

TREND

A long-term movement or change in frequency, usually upwards or downwards.

TRICHOMONIASIS

STD caused by the bacterium *Trichomonas vaginalis*; one of the causes of vaginal discharge.

TUBERCULOSIS (TB)

A bacterial infection caused by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. TB bacteria are spread by airborne droplets expelled from the lungs when a person with active TB coughs, sneezes, or speaks. Exposure to these droplets can lead to infection in the air sacs of the lungs. The immune defenses of healthy people usually prevent TB infection from spreading beyond a very small area of the lungs. If the body's immune system is impaired because of infection with HIV, aging, malnutrition, or other factors, the TB bacterium may begin to spread more widely in the lungs or to other tissues. TB is seen with increasing frequency among persons infected with HIV. Most cases of TB occur in the lungs (pulmonary TB). However, the disease may also occur in the larynx, lymph nodes, brain, kidneys, or bones (extrapulmonary TB). Extrapulmonary TB infections are more common among persons living with HIV.

ULCER

Open sore.

UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS

Infection control measures that prevent the transmission of HIV between patients and health workers. They include hand washing; use of gloves and protective clothing; safe handling of sharp objects; disposal of waste materials; cleaning, disinfecting and sterilizing medical instruments; proper handling of corpses; and treating injuries at work.

URETHRAL DISCHARGE

The symptom or syndrome where men present with a discharge from their penis, usually caused by gonorrhea or chlamydia.

URETHRITIS

Inflammation of the urethra, usually caused by gonorrhea or chlamydia.

VALIDITY

The degree to which a measurement actually measures or detects what it is supposed to measure.

VAGINAL DISCHARGE

The symptom or syndrome where women present with an abnormal discharge from their vagina. Can suggest a vaginal infection (candidiasis, bacterial vaginosis or trichomoniasis) or a cervical infection (gonorrhea or chlamydia).

VAGINITIS

Inflammation of the vagina.

VACCINE

GLOSSARY

A substance that contains components from an infectious organism. By stimulating an immune response -- but not the disease -- it protects against subsequent infection by that organism.

VAGINAL CANDIDIASIS

Infection of the vagina caused by the yeast-like fungus *Candida* (especially *Candida albicans*). Symptoms include, pain, itching, redness, and white patches in the vaginal wall. It can occur in all women, but is especially common in women with HIV infection.

VIRAL BURDEN

The amount of HIV in the circulating blood. Sicker patients generally have more virus than those with less advanced disease..

VIRAL LOAD TEST

In relation to HIV: Test that measures the quantity of HIV RNA in the blood. The lower the viral load the longer the time to AIDS diagnosis and the longer the survival time.

WESTERN BLOT

A blood test that is used to detect the presence of specific antigens. The Western Blot is used to confirm the results of an ELISA test, because it is much more specific.

WINDOW PERIOD

Time from infection with HIV until detectable seroconversion (one week to several months).

YOUTH

Young people ages 15 to 24.

YOUTH-FRIENDLY SERVICES

Services that are provided in a manner that recognizes the special information and service needs of young people. These services are developed and provided in a manner acknowledging that the challenges and obstacles facing adolescents are different than those confronted by adults.

Sources:

The National Institute for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) Education Glossary
AIDS101.com Glossary of Terms
HIV/AIDS Treatment Information Service Glossary of HIV/AIDS related terms
CDC Glossary of Epidemiology
CSAP Glossary of Prevention Terms

